

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

GSA-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OES-06 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 /141 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EFIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - SCHEDULING OF UNCTAD MEETINGS ON COMMODITIES
AND COMMON FUND - STATUS OF SECRETARIAT'S THINKING

REF: (A) GENEVA 4848, (B) STATE 156607, (C) STATE 159749,
(D) LONDON 17063, (E) LONDON 10135

SUMMARY: MISSION REVIEWED WITH DEPUTY CHIEF UNCTAD COMMODITIES
DIVISION SECRETARIAT'S THINKING RE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES
CONSULTATIONS CALLED FOR UNDER NARIOBI RESOLUTION
93(IV), SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS AND EARLY MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR COMMON FUND. APPARENT THAT SECRETARIAT
VIEWS NOT SERIOUSLY ALTERED BY U.S. STATEMENT OF UNDER-
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STANDING AT CLOSING PLENARY; IT BELIEVES THAT UNCTAD
SYG FULLY VESTED WITH AUTHORITY CONVENE MEETINGS AND
DECIDING CONTENT AND LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION OF OTHER
COMMODITY FORA. PURPOSE OF FIRST MEETING ON COMMON FUND

PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE FOR GOVERNMENT COMMENTS DESCRIBED AS "ORGANIZATIONAL" BUT SECRETARIAT CLEARLY ENVISAGES SOME SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, PARTICULARLY AS RELATED TO G-77 PROPOSALS FOR "OTHER USES" OF ANY COMMON FUND. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MISSION TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF DEPT. OFFICER (BOERNER) IN GENEVA TO REVIEW WITH DUNCAN RIDLER, DEPUTY HEAD OF UNCTAD'S COMMODITIES DIVISION, THE SECRETARIAT'S THINKING ON THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS ON COMMODITIES RESULTING FROM RECENT UNCTAD IV COMMODITIES RESOLUTION. RIDLER STRESSED HE WAS SPEAKING IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, BUT HE IS HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE SINCE HIS OFFICE HAS DEVELOPED THE FINAL PLANS FOR THESE MEETINGS WHICH ARE NOW BEFORE THE UNCTAD SYG FOR HIS APPROVAL. A MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED WITH THE SYG AND GROUP B FOR FRIDAY, JULY 2 TO REVIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON MEETINGS RELATED TO COMMODITIES.

2. RIDLER SAID THE SECRETARIAT VIEWS THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION 93(IV) AS GIVING THE UNCTAD SYG FULL AUTHORITY TO CONVENE THE INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS - THIS DESPITE THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ENTERED INTO THE RECORD BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE FINAL PLENARY IN NAIROBI. RIDLER POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT WAS OFF-SET BY A COUNTER INTERPRETATION BY THE G-77. IT WAS APPARENT FROM HIS COMMENTS THAT THE SECRETARIAT VIEWS WITH CONCERN THE POSSIBILITY OF A "FRACTIONALIZATION" OF CONSULTATIONS HELD IN DIVERSE COMMODITY FORA WHICH, IN THEIR MIND, WOULD UNDERMIND THE "POLITICAL WILL" GENERATED AT NAIROBI FOR THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM.

3. CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS, RIDLER STATED THAT THE ONES SCHEDULED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976 ARE VIEWED VERY MUCH AS PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS. IF IT IS APPARENT AT THESE FIRST CONSULTATIONS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED ON A PARTICULAR COMMODITY, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT SCHEDULE FURTHER MEETINGS. IF, HOWEVER, MORE WORK IS NEEDED, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD THEN SCHEDULE ONE OR A SERIES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS AND APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS WOULD THEN BE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE APPROPRIATE COMMODITY FORA AS REQUIRED IN RESOLUTION 93(IV). ON SOME COMMODITIES WHERE AGREEMENTS ALREADY EXIST OR ARE UNDER NEGOTIATION, (MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY IN THIS REGARD COFFEE, COCOA, SUGAR AND TIN) NO MEETINGS AT ALL MAY BE REQUIRED.

4. IN REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES ON COMMODITIES

FOLLOWING THE CONSULTATIONS, RIDLER INDICATED A STRONG PREFERENCE BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE DRAWING-UP AND ADOPTION OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ON A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF COMMODITIES, INSTEAD OF STUDY GROUPS WHICH HE DISMISSED AS BASICALLY INEFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS. HE INDICATED THAT ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY TO BE HELD WITHIN THE UNCTAD FRAMEWORK, THAT THE VARIOUS COMMODITY FORA COULD BE USED, BUT HE NOTED THAT THE AUTHORITY FOR CONVENING SUCH MEETINGS RESTS SQUARELY WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD UNDER THE RESOLUTION.

5. THE UNCTAD COMMODITY DIVISION CHIEF (CHIDZERL) AND RIDLER ARE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS WITH FAO COMMODITY DIVISION PERSONNEL (ESPECIALLY TONY LEEKS) IN ROME NEXT WEEK. THEY DID NOT CONTEMPLATE CONSULTING WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY GROUPS OF THE FAO, BUT RATHER RESTRICTING THEMSELVES TO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FAO DIVISION ITSELF. RIDLER CATEGORIZED THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY GROUPS OF FAO AS RANGING FROM USELESS (MEAT GROUP) TO MOST EFFECTIVE AND INDICATED THAT UNCTAD PLANNED TO DRAW HEAVILY ON THE MORE EFFECTIVE FAO STAFFS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WORKING ON JUTE, HARD FIBERS, TEA AND BANANAS. UNCTAD'S THINKING INCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TAKING PLACE IN ROME IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FAO SECRETARIAT, WITH OTHERS HELD IN GENEVA.

6. RIDLER STATED THE PURPOSE OF SCHEDULING A COPPER CONSULTATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER WAS TO REVIEW COPPER DEVELOPMENTS AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK COMMENCED LAST MARCH IN THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DISCUSSIONS IN THE LIGHT OF COMMODITY DECISIONS REACHED AT UNCTAD IV.

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VELOPMENTS AND THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK COMMENCED LAST MARCH IN THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER DISCUSSIONS IN THE LIGHT OF COMMODITY DECISIONS REACHED AT UNCTAD IV.

7. RELATED TO THE SEPTEMBER SCHEDULING OF A MEETING ON THE COMMON FUND, RIDLER DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE AS BEING PURELY "ORGANIZATIONAL", I.E., LAYING OUT A TIMETABLE AND WORK SCHEDULE FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. HE DID, HOWEVER, INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FIRST MEETING ON THE COMMON FUND COULD ENTER INTO A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE "OTHER PURPOSES" FOR THE FUND ENVISAGED BY THE G-77 AND REVIEW THE COMMENTS OF GOVERNMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE. HE SAW NO CONFLICT WITH THE SEPT. 30 DEADLINE FOR GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS SINCE THE MEETING WAS ONLY TO BE PRELIMINARY IN NATURE AND TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER IN EARLY 1977. THE SCHEDULING OF THIS FIRST MEETING RESULTED FROM THE NEED TO PRESS ON IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME INTERVAL BETWEEN NAIROBI AND THE MARCH NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON THE FUND AND IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURES OF THE G-77 TO GET THINGS MOVING.

8. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT VIEWS THE MANDATE GIVEN IT IN NAIROBI AS VESTING IT WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO CONVENE BOTH THE CONSULTATION AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS AND IS GOING TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY, EMPLOYING ITS OWN DEFINITION OF THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE ROLE OF EXISTING COMMODITY FORA. WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY IN PARTICULAR CASES ON EMPLOYING THESE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS AND/OR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS ALSO EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WILL ATTEMPT TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH ORGANIZATIONS ARE TO UNDERTAKE THESE SPECIFIC TASKS IN ORDER TO PREVENT UNCTAD LOSING CONTROL. THE SECRETARIAT'S ULTIMATE AIM IS FOR THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SPECIFIC COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND IT WILL SERIOUSLY DOWN-PLAY THE ROLE OF STUDY GROUPS AND OTHER SIMILAR BODIES.

9. WHILE THE CONTENTS OF DEPTELS 156607 AND 159749 WERE FULLY REVIEWED WITH RIDLER, THE MISSION WILL BE SENDING A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE UNCTAD SYG EXPRESSING OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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